

[54] **BIODEGRADABLE HYDROGEL MATRICES FOR THE CONTROLLED RELEASE OF PHARMACOLOGICALLY ACTIVE AGENTS**

[75] Inventor: Jan Feijen, Oude Grensweg, Netherlands

[73] Assignee: TheraTech, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah

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Primary Examiner—Ellis P. Robinson

Assistant Examiner—Shelly J. Guest

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Irell & Manella

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A biodegradable hydrogen matrix is provided, useful for the controlled release of pharmacologically active agents. The matrix is formed by cross-linking a proteinaceous component and a polysaccharide or mucopolysaccharide, and then loading a selected drug therein. By varying temperature, ionic strength, and the composition of the hydrogel matrix, one can control degradation kinetics, the degree of uptake of a particular pharmacologically active agent, and the overall timed release profile.

31 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets

